

CAMPO Policy Board Meeting

December 9, 2013, 1:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Jorge Morales – County Council
Zack Ellison – County Plan Commission
Ryan Brand – City Council
Roger Lang – City Plan Commission
Jim Ude / proxy for Tony McClellan – INDOT Seymour District
Rick Flohr – County Commissioner
Mayor Kristen Brown

CAMPO Staff: Laurence Brown

Other noted speakers:

Steve Rucker – City Engineering
Beth Fizel – New City Engineer
Dave Hayward – Former City Engineer, Current Parks Foundation President
April Williams – City Parks & Rec/People Trails Project coordinator

Minutes –Jorge motion to approve the September 9, 2013 minutes. Rick seconded. Laurence introduced Beth Fizel, the new Engineer for the City of Columbus.

Construct Project Report – Steve Rucker. The contractor got a slow start on the utility relocation and earth work. This project is expected to be completed in late fall of 2014. Indiana Ave is also behind our original expectation. It will be bid in July 2014. Jorge asked why? Laurence said that there were two DNR permits that had expired that needed to be re-applied, and utility coordination needed to be done. Laurence also mentioned the 6-pedestrian crossings. Laurence said that he believes there is paperwork which has been sitting in an INDOT desk for a while. Jim was going to check on that before this meeting, but wasn't able to contact Bob Winslow. Laurence also noted that the bridge#26/Lincoln Park. He stated that the money was pulled almost exactly a year ago, and just a month prior to that was when the MOU had been signed off by all the parties.

Laurence wrote a letter to INDOT stating the history of the project and asking for that money to be restored. That letter is in the packet. Laurence said there is a call for projects where we will ask for that project to be funded, but the call is for 2017 projects, which is pretty far away. Without that funding, it is likely Parks will not use the rehabbed bridge because it's too expensive. Zack asked if there is a chance we could see that re-funded. Laurence thought it could be. Dave Hayward, Parks Foundation President, said we are looking at cheaper options like using a more modern bridge – a pre-engineered truss-type bridge if funding is not restored.

Railroad – Laurence said the response to public comment from their Environmental Assessment was due December 6th, and he has not checked to see what the story is there. Zack pointed out the EA indicated up to 17 trains a day and an expected increase in traffic delays. Laurence believes that the current location of SR46 and the railroad would be very difficult to build an overpass because of the close proximity to the bridges.

Jorge asked if there was a way to notify emergency services of the schedule or location of trains. The mayor felt we need to know those schedules so we can get the trains stopped during emergencies. Laurence pointed out that there are GPS systems that allow us to know where vehicles are. Roger also mentioned the bus station is the wrong side of the tracks. Laurence said we were looking into that with the transit study. Zack Y& Jorge also mentioned the GPS systems so that 911 services can know train locations.

Zack felt we need to meet with them and coordinate. Jorge felt we weren't the only community with these concerns.

Technical Committee – Laurence talked about the Technical Committee meeting which was last Thursday. Brian Payne gave a presentation about the airport. We're using this meeting to look at those long-term projects. The meetings have been very valuable.

Transit – Laurence reported that the Call-a-Bus scheduling software is here and they are getting trained on it, and we hope that it reduces the personnel demands for dispatch and drivers. Cindy has been very happy with the quality of the software and the training. Zack asked if this avoids it becoming used as a cab service. Laurence said that the eligibility and the day-before-reservation requirement avoids it becoming a cab-like service.

Laurence said that the final decision on extending the fixed-route hours is to extend it 1-hour on weekdays, and one less hour on Saturday. The original plan was to extend it 1 ½ hours on weekdays and reduce it 2 ½ hours on Saturday. We thought people were leaving downtown in the evening, but in fact, many riders live downtown and are coming back in the evening, so it made sense to end coming downtown. Zack felt that the ridership study should be made more public so people can see that it is used.

Laurence talked about the route study consultant. The initial work in April was very thorough. They did rider counts and surveys, held nine meetings in one day of different groups in town. Had a public survey, rider survey and Cummins survey, and the write-up of that effort has been drafted. Since then we have had trouble with the consultant with regard to deadlines and effort. The Transit Advisory Committee which is acting as the Steering Committee gave a vote of low-confidence at our last meeting suggesting that we might terminate that agreement. Laurence said the consultant (PB) has told us they will bring in their national expert to help complete the work.

Laurence gave a presentation about the long-range transportation plan and how it meets some of the goals of the mayor's strategic plan for Columbus. He stated there are really 5 aspects of a city: Public Parks, Public Street, Zoning, Private Land and Private Buildings. Columbus is well known for its private buildings. The last 3 of these 5 are planned in the Comprehensive Plan, the first in a Parks Master Plan, and the Public Streets are planned in a Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is the official name (FHWA regulations) of the Long-Range Transportation Plan. He then provided a schedule of the process which would take all of 2014 until the end of 2015 when the plan would be finished.

There is an effort to "brand" this effort. The current thought is calling it "Go Columbus", with 4 subgroups called "Go Grow" (Economic), "Go Safe" (Safety), "Go Healthy" (active modes of transportation), and "Go Equitably" (funding and service fairness to all populations). Zack liked that we had connected with Jeff Bergman, and need to make sure we're also connected with Beth, with a minor admonishing for not connecting to the county.

Jorge asked about bike paint on Goehler that was not repainted after it was repaved this past summer. Laurence said we should talk to Randy Sims about that. The mayor asked of that was the contractor's responsibility. Dave Hayward was not sure. Jorge mentioned that location of the pavement stopping was strange.

Budget

Laurence described that all the 2014 INDOT planning allocation is not going to be used this year because the approved budget is \$30,000 less than what it could be to use the entire INDOT allocation. We could still use that money to do the People Trail alignment study to county communities like Elizabethtown, Hope and Taylorsville, etc. if we could find the 20% match. We haven't found that, yet. If we don't use that extra money, then it will roll over to 2015 to be potentially used for CAMPO planning dollars in 2015. Rick asked if this is about Elizabethtown, and Laurence said that initiated the discussion, but the Board preferred a County-wide effort that was suggested at an earlier Policy Board meeting. Laurence noted there have been some specific requests from communities, and Dave Hayward indicated that Edinburgh in particular had asked, as well as Hope. Zack again suggested Heritage Fund and Healthy Communities as a possible funding source for that study.

Roger Lang particularly asked about a ¼ mile sidewalk gap on Rockyford east of Taylor Road that has a treacherous area and could be People Trail. Laurence asked Beth to make a note of it.

Official business: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Resolution 2013-10 - A couple of bridge overlays on US31 and on SR7. Then there are going to be gates on SR46 railroad crossing, and they're going to have small gates for the people trail, Jim says. There is a plan to improve the signals on 2nd and 3rd at Lindsey to Lafayette. Jim thought this was new backplates on the signals that are more visible. Jim thinks the signals would be synchronized. Laurence said there was an earlier INDOT project for more money (\$1.4M) that got canceled, but we left it in the TIP because we wanted it to happen, but it was essentially unfunded. Dave informed us that the earlier project was postponed somewhat because they wanted to get away from the mast-arms that exist now

and go to span wires, and there was some pushback that it might not fit aesthetically, although INDOT did agree to paint them, but no final agreement was made, so INDOT postponed the project. Laurence said we would talk to James Howard, INDOT Seymour District signal engineer, on this and get engaged in this.

Roger Lang made a motion to approve this resolution with and that Laurence look into what exactly the signalization improvement is. Rick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2013-11 – Laurence showed a graph that CAMPO annual funding allocation from INDOT that could be used for construction projects has gone down steadily since 2010, where before that, it had gone up annually. As a result, we have planned more projects than we can now do, so we will have to move some projects to later years so that the next few years are not over-programmed.

Laurence began discussing two new trail projects. One is the “Riverwalk”. Laurence showed an aerial view with some drawn lines of the expected path location from Mill Race Park to Water Street. The mayor asked about the exact route. We also pointed out that there is another path that goes from Lafayette St, under State St bridge to the People Trail east of State along Haw Creek. That section does not use federal funding; it is funded completely with Parks Foundation People Trail Project funds. It is expected to be built in 2014. Zack felt this project along the river would be very valuable as such projects have been in other communities. Laurence said the Riverwalk project would be about \$1,000,000 effort.

Laurence went on to the Clifty Creek People Trail Project that got federal funding through a grant from Indiana Dept of Natural Resources for \$150,000. This goes from Clifty Creek Park up to McKinley as a People Trail, then along McKinley on the south side as a sidepath to Marr Rd. Both April Williams and Dave Hayward chimed in about this project. Laurence indicated that the pricetag is more than \$150,000 and the MPO is planning on contributing the balance. Zack asked about on-going maintenance. Laurence said this is not in these funds. The mayor indicated this is a problem. Dave indicated there are Parks Foundation funds specific to maintenance funding.

Zack asked about Rockyford. Laurence said it is still going to be in 2015. This project has not been moved and it will cost about \$4.2 million. It is the big project in 2015.

Laurence talked about the Newbern / Lincoln Park bridge. The bridge is going to be replaced starting in September of 2016.

Discussion of the Maple Street project. Maple Street is also a project that has become a favorite project of the community. CAMPO put in on hold because the money originally came from a earmark that got pulled by FHWA. Zack and Roger and the mayor all discussed an interest in this project. Dave Hayward thought it might not be doable until 2017 because of the Environmental document, but 2016 might be a

possible goal. The consensus appeared to be an interest in funding this with MPO/STP dollars and put it in 2016.

Indiana Ave is going to be let July 2014. The mayor asked about when the city pays its portion. It is payed 90% of the city portion at the time of the bid, Dave said. Taylor Rd is going to be moved to 2017. The mayor agreed that that would be a project to move out, and Westenedge, too.

Roger asked if both Indiana and Rockyford can be done in 2015. Laurence said they both could be let in the FY 2015.

6-pedestrian crossings – Laurence said that this is sitting on Bob Winslow's desk. The mayor emphasized that this is a priority. She expected them to be done before school started this year. She would like to be kept up to speed on this. Letting will be in FY 2015.

Motion by Roger to approve Resolution 2013-11 with a change to Maple St from 2017 to 2016.
Seconded by Jim. Approved unanimously.

Jorge motioned to adjourned. Seconded by Roger. Approved unanimously.